

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

REC'D 29 SEP 2005

PCT
WIPO PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/005360

International filing date (day/month/year)
17.12.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
17.12.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
C07K14/775, A61K38/10, A61P31/12

Applicant
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas
Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl
Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016

Authorized Officer

Smalt, R

Telephone No. +31 70 340-4275



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/005360

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☒ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☒ in written format
☒ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☒ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☒ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

Box No. II Priority

1. ☐ The validity of the priority claim has not been considered because the International Searching Authority does not have in its possession a copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed or, where required, a translation of that earlier application. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1) is the claimed priority date.
2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:
see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/005360

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application,
☒ claims Nos. 5 and 18 entirely and claims 19 and 22 in as far as industrial applicability is concerned
because:

- ☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 19 and 22, in as far as industrial applicability is concerned relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

see separate sheet

- ☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 5 and 18 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

- ☒ the claims, or said claims Nos. 5 and 18 are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 5 and 18
☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:
the written form ☐ has not been furnished
☐ does not comply with the standard
the computer readable form ☐ has not been furnished
☐ does not comply with the standard
☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.
☐ See separate sheet for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/005360

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-4,6-17,19-22
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-4,6-17,19-22
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-4,6-17,19-22
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re: II

The priority document was made available to the International Searching Authority (ISA) by the International Bureau at the time of the search. The application as filed comprises some extra examples and figures, and the SEQ.ID's 52-66 were also absent from the invoked priority. This has no bearing on the interpretation of the claims in the light of the prior art revealed at present.

Re: III

For the assessment of the present claims 19 and 22 on the question whether they are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT Contracting States. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

Re: V

The present claims suffer from a number of clarity issues (see below), but when interpreted in the light of the description, the subject-matter intended to be claimed appears to be new over the prior art.

Although there were already suggestions in the prior art that some viruses and other pathogens might compete with the ApoE protein for binding to HSPG receptors on the cell surface, and the skilled person might have been directed to the HSPG receptor binding region within ApoE, it is not considered obvious to make the modifications and truncations as specified by the application.

As the subject-matter of the application has clear application in industry, all conditions of Art.33 PCT can be considered to be met, provided the clarity issues are dealt with appropriately.

Re: VIII

Claims 19 and 22 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(I) PCT).

It is not clear to which entity the respective terms derivative, analogue, and truncation relate, nor how one would recognize a truncation of a tandem repeat, and how much of it should be left in order to fall under the claim. The scope of claim 1 therefore is not clear either, and it is impossible to even begin a novelty assessment thereof in a meaningful manner.

Since in claim 7 no position(s) for the addition of an amino acid is indicated, the number of possible permutations becomes so large that a meaningful novelty assessment is impossible. Furthermore, the application shows that the antiviral peptides described therein must meet certain criteria in order to retain antiviral activity. The majority of peptides within the scope of claim 7 are not considered to meet these criteria, and are hence not supported by the description in the sense of Art.6 PCT. Consequently the application also lacks disclosure in this respect in accordance with Art.5 PCT.